

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

1. A method of monitoring the operation of a prosthetic assist device, the method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) utilising a non invasive device to monitor or serially measure directly the blood flow through at least one heart ventricle;
 - (b) separately monitoring the blood flow through the prosthetic assist device;
 - (c) combining said two measurements to determine an overall native to prosthetic flow index.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said non invasive device monitoring or serial measurement comprises continuous wave Doppler flow monitoring of the heart.
3. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the heart is monitored or serially measured from a transducer placed adjacent the suprasternal notch.
4. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said method is repeated under a number of different operational conditions for a patient including walking and/or running.
5. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said method is repeated under a number of different pharmacological conditions for a patient.